

**Remarks**

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action mailed September 28, 2005. Claims 1-10 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 11-19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-8 and for the indication that claim 20 is allowed.

The Office Action states that claims 2-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2-8 are dependent upon claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons with respect to claim 1, in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-8 is solicited.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,226,200 to Eguchi et al. ("Eguchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,614,695 to Keays ("Keays"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a parameter controller for receiving an input signal having a characteristic parameter, for controlling the value of the characteristic parameter of the input signal according to the control data and for generating an output signal having the controlled characteristic parameter." (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that neither Eguchi, nor Keays teaches or renders obvious all of the features of the present invention. In the Office Action, the Examiner identifies the programmable voltage generator 114 of Eguchi as the element

which discloses the recited parameter controller of the present invention. See Office Action, dated September 28, 2005, p3. In contrast to the present invention, the programmable voltage converter 114 of Eguchi receives a word line voltage (Vwl) select field 121 to select the output voltage of the programmable voltage generator 114. Eguchi, col. 4, ll. 52-59. While the output of the programmable voltage generator 114 has a controlled characteristic parameter, the input signal received by the programmable voltage converter 114 does not have a controlled characteristic parameter. In other words, the input signal received by the programmable voltage generator 114 of Eguchi is used to select an output signal having a characteristic parameter but does not itself have a characteristic parameter of its own. The supply voltage signal provided to the programmable voltage generator 114 of Eguchi is a fixed value that is not a characteristic parameter.

The Examiner cites Keays to cure the deficiency in Eguchi as "Eguchi is silent about the register controller being nonvolatile." *Id.* However, Keays fails to disclose or render obvious the recited element discussed above with respect to Eguchi. Accordingly, Keays fails to cure the deficiency of Eguchi.

In sum, the combination of Eguchi and Keays would not result in the parameter controller as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the combination does not render claim 1 obvious. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Eguchi in view of Keays. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Moreover, Claims 2-8 are dependent upon claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons with respect to claim 1, in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-8 is solicited.

Claim 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eguchi in view of Keays and further in view of U.S. Published Application No.

2004/0047172 to Komatsuzaki ("Komatsuzaki"). As discussed above, neither Eguchi, nor Keays disclose or render obvious the parameter controller as recited in the claims. Komatsuzaki fails to cure the deficiency of either Eguchi or Keays. Accordingly, because Claims 9 and 10 are dependent upon claim 1, claims 9 and 10 are allowable for at least the aforementioned reasons with respect to claim 1 in addition to the further patentable features recited therein.

Allowance of claims 1-10 is solicited.

### Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any over payment or charge any deficient to deposit account number 08-1641.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/28/05

By:

  
*[Handwritten signature of Johnny A. Kumar]*  
for Johnny A. Kumar  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 34,649

Rec. No.  
45,304

**Address all correspondence to:**  
HELLER EHRMAN LLP  
1717 Rhode Island Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: 202-912-2000  
Facsimile: 202-912-2020  
Customer Number: 26633